

TELL IT TO THE GAZETTE

LAW AND MORALITY

Gay marriage: some starkly differing views

Richard Tafel's opinion piece on gay and lesbian marriages is a smoke screen aiming to hide the true agenda of gays and lesbians to obtain equal rights in all arenas with traditional marriages ("The case for civil marriage for all Americans," Commentary, Sept. 29). He eloquently yet erroneously uses the Bible and a family-values agenda, stating "America needs strong marriages more than ever."

The thesis of his article is that gays will be more healthy and fulfilled in a marriage relationship because "men in particular thrive within a committed, monogamous relationship." (If this same statement were made of women, would it not be considered sexist?) Pray tell, where does he get proof to substantiate this statement?

It is my understanding that gays and lesbians get married already. Many "churches" recognize their loving and committed relationship. What they do together in the privacy of their homes is none of my business, nor do I care for it to be.

We all know that it is not the piece of paper that makes them be committed to each other but rather their hearts' desires. So, the question is not, as Tafel puts it, why can't gays and lesbians be married? They can be. The question is: Why doesn't the government force the institution of marriage in our society to include gay and lesbian marriage? The reason they want this change has everything to do with personal economics and power to spread their lifestyle freely.

— **Rebecca Colafrancesco**
Colorado Springs

A COUPLE OF points in Martin Mawyer's essay about gay marriage bother me ("A fundamental misunderstanding of marriage," Commentary, Sept. 29). If marriage is only for procreation, then only those who are capable of procreating should be allowed to marry. Many heterosexual couples do not have children and have replenished the earth in many ways. They give so much to the community, but by Mawyer's standards, their union is wrong. Marriage is more than having babies. It is working together to make the world around you a better place, it is teaming two people with different skills and experiences. In a good marriage, the whole becomes more than the two parts.

Mawyer also states that nothing in biotechnology can substitute for natural conception. That sounds like he would prohibit infertile couples from using anything but natural conception. How many

"unnatural" babies would he like to get rid of?

The notion that same-sex marriages would lead to poor women being enslaved and used as breeders is interesting. There was a time a little over 100 years ago that our country saw women and men breed like livestock. The society that permitted this abomination was not made up of "sterile" homosexual couples. Slave owners were usually married heterosexuals who believed that God put them over the people they treated like animals.

In our society people who are committed to a monogamous relationship need all the support they can get. Marriage is a way we as a people formalize those relationships through the act of stating, in front of family and the community, the couple's intention to face the future together.

— **Mark and Beth Heinrich**
Colorado Springs

THIS IS A PUBLIC SERVICE to the readers of the Gazette who may have been deceived by Richard Tafel's piece, "The case for civil marriage for all Americans." Tafel's politics notwithstanding, the abuses of sacred scripture must be responded to publicly. Tafel alleges that polygamy was the primitive biblical model for marriage; in fact, monogamy was ordained in the Garden of Eden and enjoined upon our first parents (Gen. 2:24). Polygamy is condemned in the law given to Moses (Deut. 17:17). Homosexuality is proscribed and punishable by death (Lev. 20:13) regarding temporal condemnation, and a barrier to eternal life regarding spiritual condemnation:

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (by perversion), nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the Kingdom of God." (1 Cor. 6:9-10). Moreover, St. Paul describes the practicing homosexual as given over to "degrading passions" . . . men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own bodies the due penalty of their error. God gave them over to a depraved mind to do those things which are not proper." (Rom. 1:26-28).

I do not know what kind of Baptist denomination would ordain Tafel, but it is manifestly not one which holds the scriptures to be the word of God. The lowest regions of the netherworld are reserved for false prophets (2 Pet. 2:17) and those who cause the innocent to stumble. If almighty God had approved of any same-sex union, even monogamous ones, Sodom and Gomorrah would still be standing on the site of the Dead Sea in Palestine.

— **John W. Proctor**
Bachelor of Theological Studies
Colorado Springs

ONCE AGAIN A Christian, extreme rightist raises his opinionated ugly head. Martin Mawyer defines marriage by his narrow, self-defined standards. In his

comment on what constitutes a proper marriage, he does not speak of love, respect, mutual caring, etc. He only says that marriage is for procreation and that this one reason is sanctioned by governments through their financial subsidies for procreating.

His argument that the only reason homosexuals want the right to legal marriage is for financial gain ignores mutual affection. If one were to carry his theory that marriage is only for procreation further, one could make the following postulates:

- Childless couples have no right to be married.
- Any man and any woman should be mated for the sole reason of procreation.
- Love does not exist, etc.

Love, commitment and caring are the reasons for marriage in a couple of whatever sexual orientation. That children may come from this union is a blessing to some of these couples, but not to others. Not all couples want to be parents and may not be suited to be parents. Indeed, look at all the child abuse by parents.

— **Jerome Goodley**
Colorado Springs

CITY/REGION

Ex-minister accused of sexual assault

By Kathryn Sosbe
Gazette Telegraph

A 39-year-old former Colorado Springs minister who allegedly told a teen-age boy God would forgive them for their sexual relationship has been arrested for assaulting the boy.

William John Anderson, 39, was being held Friday in the El Paso County jail on a \$25,000 bond on suspicion of sexual assault on a child by a person in a position of trust. He is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 23.

Anderson was arrested Thursday night after an eight-month investigation that began when a therapist learned of the alleged incidents.

According to court records filed Friday, the teen-ager told police the relationship developed this way:

In 1991, the boy, then 13,

joined Springs Harvest Fellowship, 1015 Garden of the Gods Road, where Anderson was a full-time pastor. Church officials could not be reached for comment late Friday.

The teen-ager said he looked up to Anderson because the older man traveled to foreign countries, distributing Bibles and ministering to people. At one point, in 1993, the two discussed the boy's sexual experience. The teen told police sex was a topic his father never discussed and that he considered the discussion educational.

But the relationship suddenly changed and the two performed oral sex on one another. At least once, the teen-ager asked if what the two had done was wrong. Anderson told him that God would forgive them.

The two would engage in sex in various places, including Gar-

den of the Gods, Anderson's home, and a cave on Rampart Range Road.

The sexual relationship ended in the spring of 1994. Anderson had the two sign "a paper agreeing that they would never do it again. (The teen-ager) said they even cut their thumbs and put the blood on the paper."

The teen said at one point he told a youth minister about the relationship but nothing happened.

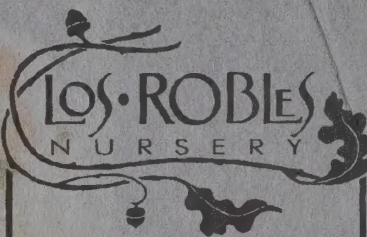
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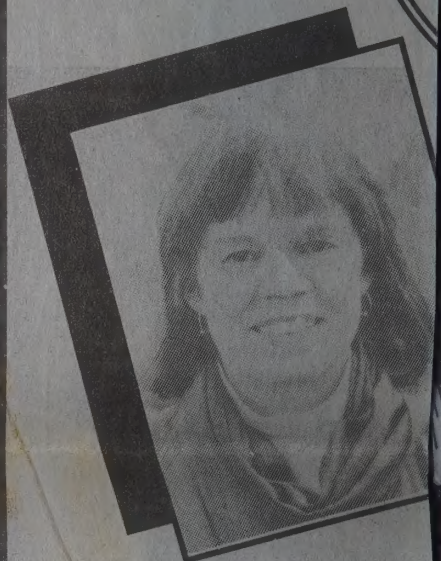
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